



# Valley Star

VOLUME 52 , ISSUE 12

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE www.lavc.cc.ca.us

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1999

## Campus Scene

### HIV LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

- **When:** Dec. 1
- **Time:** 12 P.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Cafeteria Conference Room
- **RSVP:** 947-2918, Seating limited, includes free food

### UNIVERSITY REPS

#### CSUN

- **When:** Dec. 2
- **Time:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Career / Transfer Center in Administration Bldg. Room 126 Career Transfer Center

### School of Oriental Medicine

- **When:** Dec. 2
- **Time:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Career / Transfer Center in Administration Bldg. Room 126 Career Transfer Center

### LION'S DEN OPEN

- **Activities:** Video arcade, pool tables, foob ball
- **Where:** Campus Center Basement

### FREE AND ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING

#### TESTING

- **When:** Dec. 1
- **Time:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Student Health Center, North Gym

#### RESULTS

- **When:** Dec. 8
- **Time:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Student Health Center, North Gym

## Campus will care for cats

■ **Environment:** feeding stations to be built by Maintenance.

By KIM TUCHMAN  
STAR REPORTER

At an often explosive open-forum meeting in the Campus Center's Fireside Room on Nov. 14, students, faculty, administrators, volunteers and community residents vented their opinions as to what should be done regarding the feral felines on campus.

By the meeting's end Valley president, Tyree Wieder, announced that the college would immediately put into effect a trap-neuter-release program similar to the one in place at UCLA and will implement it with the help of Actors and Others for Animals.

In addition, feeding stations and shelters will be built at strategic locations around campus. Only dry food will be used at these stations to prevent insect infestation.

The areas underneath each building will be cleaned and sealed with a warning that kicking in the closures is illegal.

According to Wieder, she will give the program six months, and then re-evaluate the situation at the end of the Spring semester, determining whether this was an effective solution or if another solution needs to be sought out.

Actors and Others for Animals

executive director, Susan Taylor, brought in Joyce Pieper, a feral cat consultant, who will work with the volunteers that already care for the cats at Valley, and, together they will make decisions regarding the cats.

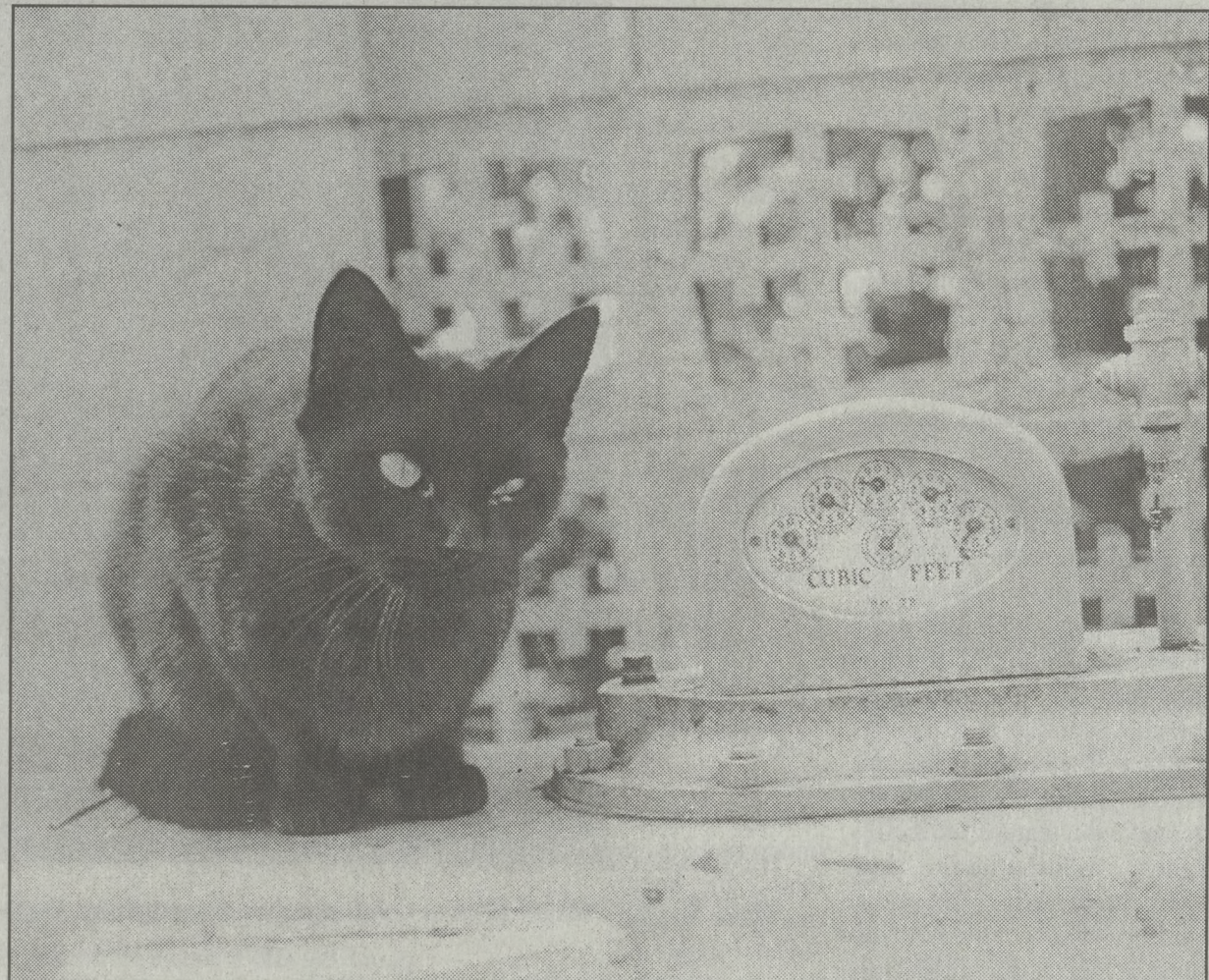
"Everybody knows now that you aren't going to get in trouble taking care of the cats, or have any clandestine trapping of the animals. It can all be done in the open," said Taylor. She said that Actors and Others for Animals as well as the volunteers on campus will donate food for the cats.

The feeding stations will be about 3-feet wide by 4-feet long wood shelters that are raised above the ground and will be built by Valley's maintenance workers staff.

"This will give the cats designated sleeping areas, designated flea areas, where they can be treated periodically, and where we can cut through the issues of the cats having no real shelter," said Pieper.

"We're going to do it as quickly as we can do it properly and safely, and taking care of all concerned parties," said Mary Ann Breckell, vice-president of administrative services, who was delegated by Wieder to oversee the project.

Some people at the meeting were still not happy with the solution that Wieder has chosen. "Why are we not trying to get rid of the problem?" said Freddy Miller, a fire technology student. "If we're not allowed to bring our domestic animals here on campus, why do we have to harbor these feral cats?"



Local Valley cat takes time out on top of one of the college's meters.

Karen Goldman/Valley Star

### For The Record:

On page two of the Nov. 18 issue of the Star, the Chair of the Distinguished Alumni Committee, retired dean Sam Mayo and the new Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts, Dennis Reed, were both quoted in an article regarding the Valley College 50th Anniversary Dinner Gala, but without attribution of their full name and title.

Also omitted from the article were the names of Mannon Kaplan, President of the Patrons Association and Jim Marteney, who was the Master of Ceremonies.

## Crime stats down, sex offenses up

■ **Crime:** Non-combatative attitude is best defense against perpetrators.

By SARA ABRAMS  
STAR REPORTER

Most criminal activities have declined at Valley College over the past three years according to crime report statistics provided by Valley campus police, but a number of sexually oriented crimes have spread with the perpetrators still at large.

The so-called "booty bandit" struck again on November 4 in what was described as "sexual battery (touching of buttocks) at the Library", according to the Valley Star's Crime Watch and confirmed by campus police officer Jeffrey Heier.

An incident of indecent expo-

sure was also reported in November.

"I've been here since 1992 as a paid officer and one year before that as a volunteer and I cannot remember any sexual batteries in the past," Heier said. "They've just been happening in the last three months."

Heier added that the male suspects all seem to fit a similar description of height, weight and age.

Officer Jon Herrington of Valley's campus police said that if a student should encounter a sexually oriented crime, they should mentally note a good

description of the person, without staring, turn around and walk away.

*"If people don't take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, the number of assaults will increase or become more severe."*

Joseph Dalu, a former Imperial Valley police officer

individual feels uncomfortable walking to their car they should request an escort.

Joseph Dalu, a former Imperial Valley police officer who currently works as a security con-

sultant and private investigator, warned, "If people don't take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, the number of assaults will increase or become more severe." He cautioned, "Be very alert. An offender may become more bold."

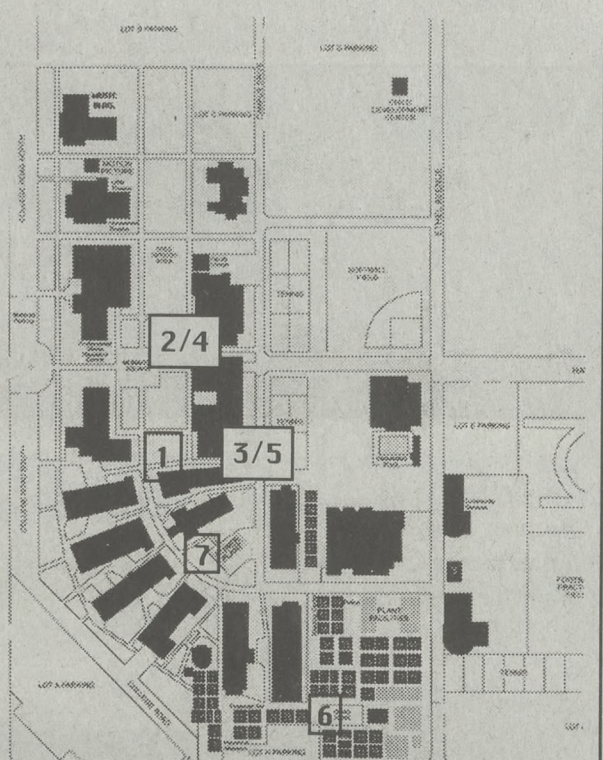
Both Dalu and Herrington had similar safety tips they offered:

Dalu suggested, "Take a moment to develop a habit of when you leave a building - get your keys in hand, pepper spray or whistle. It will soon become second nature to do this."

Heier noted that the crime reports go to the Van Nuys police and if the case is closed the campus police are notified.

## Crime Watch

- 1) Nov. 11  
Petty theft at Humanities 109D
- 2) Nov. 17  
Shop lifting at the Bookstore
- 3) Nov. 19  
Vandalism at Campus Center
- 4) Nov. 22  
Shop lifting at the Bookstore
- 5) Nov. 24  
Petty theft at Campus Center
- 6) Nov. 24  
Battery in South Quad.
- 7) Nov. 27  
Vandalism/theft Boiler Room



### SAFETY TIPS:

\* Always be alert and aware of the people around you.

\* Pepper spray or stun guns are acceptable means of self-defense weapons. Blowing a whistle kept on your key chain may

scare an attacker off as they do not want the attention.

\* Park in well-lit areas.

\* Develop a buddy system when walking to and from parking lots. Have keys in hand while walking to your vehicle. Look in your back seat before getting

in your car. If you have a car alarm with panic mode, have that in your hand.

\* If you can't have someone walk with you, call someone at home, if you have a cell phone, so that they know when to expect you.



Thursday, December 2, 1999

Valley Star

# Robert Chauls, man of music

■ **Profile:** Versatile conductor has been teaching at Valley for 27 years.

By CECI VENDRELL  
STAR REPORTER

Here's a new category for "Jeopardy": Important People at Valley College. The answer: He's a conductor, composer, concert pianist, teacher and game show champion. The question: Who is Robert Chauls?

Chauls, who has a doctorate in conducting, is the music director of the Valley Symphony Orchestra. He also teaches most of the piano classes at Valley, has written five operas and is, yes, a successful game show contestant.

A teacher at Valley for 27 years, the youthful 50-something Chauls leads the symphony through four concerts a year in addition to playing himself in an annual chamber music concert. "Christmas in Three-Quarter Time" on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre will be the symphony's last concert of the year and will feature works by Wagner, Khachaturian and Johann Strauss, Jr.. Chauls is honoring the centennial of Strauss's death by including some of the famous composer's most popular works, such as the waltzes of "The Beautiful Blue Danube" and "Wine, Women and Song."

"Since he took over as orchestra conductor he's done wonderful work with the orchestra," says Woody James, director of the Valley Jazz Band and

Chauls' office mate.

Chauls finds conducting both rewarding and frustrating, saying "A good conductor can make players play to the best of their ability." He adds that frustration stems from the limited amount of control a conductor has over the sounds coming from each musician. "One violin out of tune affects the entire sound."

Originally from New York state, Chauls earned his doctorate in conducting at the University of Southern California after receiving his M.A. in piano from the University of Michigan. As an undergraduate in Ohio, he spent one year at the Royal College of Music in London.

A talent in music showed itself early in Chauls' life, starting with piano at age 7. By junior high school he was accompanying his school choir, a position he maintained throughout high school and college. Chauls wishes he had studied many other instruments along with the



Cathy Koebel/Valley Star

Robert Chauls conducts the Valley Symphony Orchestra earlier in the semester.

piano but did manage to round out his musicianship with drums and percussion.

"He is an excellent musician," says James. "And he has a great sense of humor."

Students in Chauls' Valley piano classes may not see much humor from their professor if they don't practice. "I'm pretty tough," Chauls says, "or so my

students say anyway.

Piano and the orchestra don't take up all of Chauls' time. He has written five operas, including the children's opera "Alice in Wonderland," which has been performed in the United States and Europe. Off-campus, Chauls coaches opera singers, working with them on phrasing and pronunciation to guide them

to their best interpretation of the music.

All of this music must be good for the brain - Chauls has shown talent as a game show contestant. And not just any game shows but two of the toughest ones on TV. As a four-time contestant on "Jeopardy" in the 1980s, Chauls won \$36,000. He was a \$5,000 champion in

1998 on "Win Ben Stein's Money" and says, "Ben's okay even though he is a Republican."

Chauls claims to be the only member of his family with musical talent, saying "My sister is tone deaf." He does, however, have a cat who loves to hide inside Chauls' grand piano.

## Azabagic magic casts its spell

■ **Music:** Prize-winning Bosnian guitarist in concert at the Music Recital Hall.

By CECI VENDRELL  
STAR REPORTER

A cold wind blew strong on the night of Nov. 21, sending leaves scuttling around the music building at Valley College. Inside the Music Recital Hall, though, a chilled audience quickly warmed up to the sounds of classical guitarist, 27-year-old Denis

Azabagic.

With a relaxed and easy-going style, Azabagic spoke to the audience before his first piece as Valley College Guitar Ensemble director, Robert Mayeur, turned up the stage lights. Dressed in a black suit and gray shirt, Azabagic's calm demeanor belied his 27 years. And once he started playing his guitar he became ageless.

The native of Bosnia and Herzegovina has won first prizes at many international guitar competitions over the last seven years, including his recent \$10,000 win at the annual

Stotsenberg competition held this year at Pepperdine University.

"El Decameron Negro," by Cuban composer Leo Brower, introduced the audience of approximately 75 people to Azabagic's magic style. The sounds of his guitar flowed, wandering from solid to fluid and back again. Mayeur said during intermission that Azabagic's playing was "like a waterfall," adding that Azabagic had a great sense of expression.

Azabagic explained that his second piece, "Invocation y danza," was written by Joaquin

Rodrigo as an homage to a fellow Spaniard, composer Manuel de Falla.

It began with deliberate individual notes that segued into a full, dance-like rhythm until the individual notes came back to end the piece in a whisper. So complex was the sound that it was the first time of many during the concert where one could imagine Azabagic was playing with four hands, not just two.

A "more funny piece" was promised by Azabagic in "Variations on Carnival of Venice," by Francisco Tarrega from Valencia in Spain.

According to Azabagic, Tarrega was one of the principal figures in the development of Spanish guitar.

This piece was indeed playful with lots of movement on the strings as Azabagic presented variations on a theme. His descending melodic glissandos, a technique of rapidly sliding fingers along the strings, sounded like party guests laughing.

Azabagic asked the audience if anyone was wondering why more than half the program was music of Spanish composers from Valencia. "My wife comes from the same area so she

made me kind of do it," he said. His wife, Eugenia Moliner Ferrer, is a flutist who plays concerts with her husband as the Cavatina Duo.

Azabagic, who played a total of seven pieces and an encore, projected an intimate relationship with both the guitar and the music. One couldn't be sure where the man, the instrument and the music separated, if at all. He certainly succeeded in transporting this listener from a cold November night to the sunny Mediterranean. And it was a lot less expensive than a ticket to Spain.

## Upcoming Events

December				2	3	4
				Fool For Love Sheila Guerrero, director Lab Theater 8 p.m.	LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra Robert Mayeur, director Music Recital Hall 7:30 p.m. admission charge	Christmas in Three-Quarter Time Valley Symphony Orchestra Robert Chauls, conductor Little Theater 8 p.m. admission charge
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Valley College Choir, Chamber Singers and Philharmonic Choir Jennifer Kelly, conductor Monarch Hall 7 p.m. admission charge			LAVC Jazz Ensemble Woody James, director Music Room 112 noon  Original Script 1 and 8 p.m. (See Dec. 9 for more info.)	Original Script Miguel Ponce De Leon, director Lab Theater 8 p.m.		



## Timing tells tale in "Nobody Sleeps"

■ **Theater:** Latest Shoebox offering had its laughs in all the right places.

By JIM CARROZO  
STAR REPORTER

The Guernsey Le Pelley comedy, "Nobody Sleeps," which got a lab theater production last Tuesday and Wednesday at the Shoebox Theater, had what every comedy needs, a live, awake and willing audience.

Comedy, more than any other theatrical form, depends on audience reaction. Like a conductor cuing a musical entrance, comic actors must cue their audience to

laugh. Based on the quality and length of that laugh, they must then speak the next line of dialogue at the moment the laugh peaks and is about to be over. One slip and it's a train wreck. Once you step on a laugh with a prematurely spoken line it can be very tricky to get the audience back on track.

Wednesday's matinee audience got straight "A's." They knew their part and gave the players what they needed, reaction.

The actors in turn provided the next line, which led to the next laugh, and so forth, until a rhythm was established and everything that should have gotten laugh, did.

The story is about three sisters and their mother, one by one, catching a bumbling burglar

named Spike, in the act of robbing their apartment. When the first sister, "Daisy Busby," enters, it's just after the break-in has occurred, and the audience immediately notices an inconsistency in her reaction. She isn't upset. As a matter of fact, she acts as if such an event were almost common.

When the second sister, Ada, enters, she's downright cordial to the intruder and we see the pattern develop. By the time sister number three, Glory, enters, the rhythm is well established and we expect, and get, a similar reaction.

Not only is the trio not frightened by this invasion, they're critical of the thief's performance. They pick apart his technique, style, even attire, and one

by one they tell him that he should meet their mother, who is a mystery writer. Enter Mrs. Busby, who pushes the already non-plussed second story man from consternation to total confusion.

Gabbie Vasques, Sandy Bowles and Ariana Powell played the sisters, who one by one aggravate, confuse and humiliate the burglar.

They worked well together bouncing their lines back and forth with precision and a good sense of their objectives.

Jessie Leon as the hapless intruder reacted with growing frustration as he realized his caper and his life was a dismal failure. Leon played well off each of the four females as they, one by one, pecked away at his

ineptitude.

Among Spike's many failings is a total lack of knowledge about guns or gun-handling. His relationship to his piece as he waved it about, scratched his head with it and generally treated it like a wooden prop, was like an Ed Wood cop at the scene of the crime. Funny stuff.

Meri Kai, a newcomer to the lab group, made some simple, but very effective, choices to give the right amount of "age" and Jessica Fletcher type sophistication to the mother.

Of course, between the four of them, they mercilessly exposed the robber's ineptitude and sent him packing, without booty, perchance in search of a better career.

The twist at the end tells us that

their knowledge of home robberies was first hand because Mr. Busby, an offstage presence, is himself a professional bandit and at that moment, somewhere else in the city, was busy burgling.

Jaime Hernandez kept the direction and staging simple and natural looking. Powell and Leon designed the set, which could have had a little more stuff for Spike to rifle through, and Powell also edited the sound, which was operated by Ignacio I. Ferrera. Dan Greenberg effectively designed and operated the lights.

All in all this group was lucky to have had such a good house because comedy hell is when there are more people on the stage than in the audience.

### Are you holding your future in your hands?

Student writers, reporters, editors, photographers, artists and advertising sales people are needed to work on the Valley Star, the Valley Star Online, and the Crown Online magazine for the Spring 2000 semester.

To get involved register for the appropriate classes:

The Valley Star -- Journalism 218.  
Advanced Reporting -- Journalism 202.  
Collecting and Writing News -- Journalism 101.

Next semester, the Photography Department will be offering a variety of classes which will be using new digital and darkroom equipment to teach Beginning Photography, Advanced Photography and Photojournalism.

For more information contact Ed Bond of the Journalism and Photography department at (818) 947-2574.

Applications for  
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The Valley Star are  
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114.

Applications are  
due Dec. 9, 5 p.m.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Teacher gains strength from outpouring of sympathy

Dear Editor:

My family and I are overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy, support and generosity that the LA Valley College faculty, staff, students and administration have demonstrated upon the passing of my wife, Marsha. There are no words to describe the gratitude and emotions I feel for all who have expressed their kind and thoughtful concern for my family.

When I found out that the Men's Physical Education Department members had set up a college trust fund for my sons, I was at a loss for words. I am so very grateful. I hope that my sons and I can live lives worthy of your faith and support. Marsha would have been genuinely touched by the tremendous love you have all expressed. I feel like Jimmy Stewart in the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." When I was in despair, you came from everywhere to lift up my spirit and give me strength.

A final thought that Marsha and I would like to convey to you is that you should cherish and enjoy every minute of your life and not sweat the small stuff. Life is so very beautiful and every moment so very precious.

My family thanks each and every one of you! We love you!

Sincerely,

Gary Honjio  
Physical Education Department.

## Write us a letter



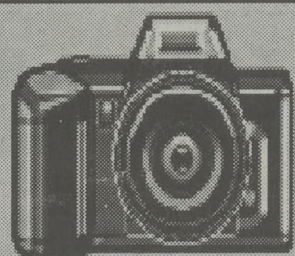
The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be addressed to the Valley Star c/o Los Angeles Valley College 5800 Fulton Valley Glen, CA 91401 or left in the news room in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the next publication. They can also be placed in our mailboxes attached to one of our three yellow news stands, or e-mailed to [vstar@laccd.cc.ca.us](mailto:vstar@laccd.cc.ca.us).

## For Your Information

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. The College newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

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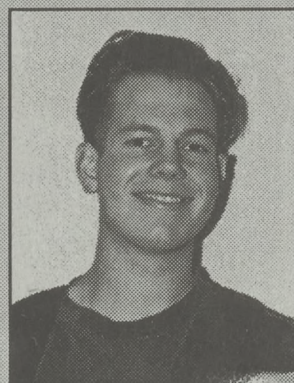


## PHOTO SURVEY

"What will life be like when the time capsule is opened in 2049?"

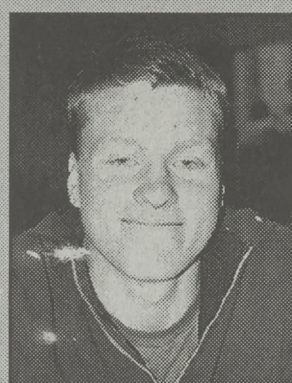


Karen Goldman/Valley Star



"The country will be overcrowded, states will have more power, the government will be more decentralized, and fossil fuels will be replaced by solar power."

-Robert Burgess,  
Hollywood



"I think we will have a corporate government, and Bill Gates will be president."

-David Krausse,  
La Crescenta



"Marijuana will be legal."

-Maria Tonioni,  
Pacoima

## Editorial...

# L.A. Times scandal sets bad example for journalism students

As it becomes more and more clear that Katherine Downing, publisher and chief executive of the Los Angeles Times will not be removed from her position as a result of her unethical financial deal with the Staples Center, it is time for us to get angry.

Downing made a deal with the Staple Center to split the profits from ads placed in a special edition of the Times Magazine which was devoted entirely to the new downtown show-

place. It was done quietly and without the knowledge of editors or staff.

To the majority of the public, Downing's actions may not even seem important. With so many scandals coming from such respected institutions as the government and local police departments, a newspaper publisher sharing revenues with an advertiser is just one more scandal added to the laundry list of bad impressions the media has made on the public.

But to student journalists this is a big deal. We are just learning to deal with the public's attitude towards us as reporters and the fact that we want to become a part of a group thought of so poorly.

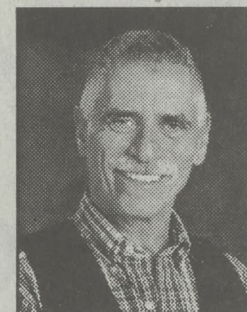
We have always handled these criticisms by citing the good reputation of existing newspapers such as the Times. When a newspaper as big as that makes a mistake like Downing did for the Times, we lose one of our best allies.

We know that if any of the journalists at the Times knew about this unethical move it would never have gotten as far as it did without being exposed, but the public does not separate reporters and editors from publishers.

Because of this, we think that Downing should voluntarily step down from office. She has disgraced her profession and has a struck a blow against the credibility of the Times from which they may never recover.

## The Senior Freshman...

# Clubs aren't the problem, officers are



By JIM CARROZO  
STAR REPORTER

Mark Twain once said that he would never join a club that would accept him as a member.

I think he meant that clubs, by their very nature are elitist and he, being so in touch with his inner commoner, felt that any organization considering him for membership must have a very low standard. I've had similar misgivings about joining clubs and now that I'm a regular "Joe College" I'm surrounded by such opportunities.

I didn't go to college until recently, but I entertained at a bunch of them during the sixties and seventies when I was part of a comedy team on the college circuit. The fraternities, sororities and clubs of the forties and fifties had long since passed their heyday because their complacent stupidity had no place during the Vietnam years.

They were considered fatu-

ous, and campuses were momentarily safe from the elitist snobbery that the "frat" mentality had come to represent. Such pretensions seemed no longer endurable in the light of "The Age of Aquarius," but of course, like a mutating virus it was just hiding out, this time in head shops, and before long inner circles began to flourish within "Camelot".

Communes and yoga retreats became the centers of the new "in" crowd, with a power hierarchy of their own, but with the same psychological mind set as the frat brats before them. I saw more than my share of ego-celebrating, in-fighting, me-myself-and-I, "el toro poo poo" gurus deciding who was "spiritual" enough for membership in their "New Age" clubs. They looked no different than the "What family are you from?" and "How much are they worth" morons of previous years.

The phonies of old had to do with sports cars, polo, regattas and "good" families, while the hippie snobs were immersed in spiritual pride, but today's campus elite, gather under

highly separatist "nationality" banners and "artist" groups and should guard against too much separatism.

Unfortunately the mentality at the top of the pecking order is virtually unchanged. It's no longer about money or spirituality but they have the same status oriented "Who's in charge?" and "Who gets credit?" priorities.

With the exception of honor societies which base their membership on brains and talent over family name and bloodline, these new clubs though more socially conscious than their predecessors are in danger of being just as snobby.

Over the last year and a half I've attended meetings, stumbled upon news stories, overheard conversations, witnessed altercations and received e-mails demonstrating the cruelty shown to outsiders by club insiders. I've seen and heard them verbally intimidate new members and, in at least two instances witnessed physical attacks.

The "true originals" of course, get overlooked by the

"in" crowd. Check out the way the folks in charge deal with plebes, newcomers and initiates. If you're an insider they'll treat you just fine, at least to your face, but watch the way they change when they talk to a newcomer and you'll get a more accurate picture of what they're really about.

They usually can't appreciate the diamonds in their midst because of the glare given off by their own cubic zirconia mentality.

If you don't dress right, look right, act right, say the right things, or know the right people, club leaders will more than likely freeze you out with attitude.

How about a club dedicated to inter-cultural appreciation and crossover lifestyles where odd meets even and humanity is the only prerequisite?

Nah! They'd start looking down their noses at anyone less odd than themselves and we'd have the same mess all over again. I think it's just the human condition. I'll just stay a paid up member in a club of one. I'm at [SrFresh@aol.com](mailto:SrFresh@aol.com) for your comments.